

Five years ago, Lisa returned to the NYC Housing Authority as a Community Coordinator for Brooklyn South and quickly advanced to the position of Citywide Program Manager. She was soon promoted to Senior Program Manager.

As Senior Program Manager, she develops, implements, manages and evaluates youth and senior center programs throughout the borough. Lisa is the creator of NYC Housing Authority Kids Walk, which is approaching its third event year. She is putting forth a great deal of effort to connect health care services to the Brooklyn Housing Developments, Brookdale University Hospital, adolescent obesity program, Fit for Life; SUNY Downstate Hospital, Asthma Mobile Unit and the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health.

Lisa has also committed herself to a number of volunteer activities. Currently, her highest priority is PowerPlay NYC Inc, which empowers young women through play.

Lisa's mantra of "Not everyone thinks like me, and that's okay," has allowed her to have a successful professional life as well as a fulfilling personal life.

Mr. Speaker, Lisa Davis has dedicated virtually all her professional life to improving the lives of young adults and seniors in need. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, during an absence yesterday, I regrettably missed rollcall votes 165–168. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 165, "yea;" rollcall No. 166, "no;" rollcall No. 167, "yea;" and rollcall No. 168, "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GIRL SCOUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE'S PUBLICATION OF "FEELING SAFE: WHAT GIRLS SAY"

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that is of concern to every member of this body and every citizen of our Nation. That issue is the safety of our children.

Recently, the Washington Post featured an article describing the findings of a national survey conducted by researchers from Duke University and the nonprofit Foundation for Child Development. The title of the article tells the story of their results; "Baby Steps Made in the Well-Being of Children." The good news it shares is that children and teens are safer today than they have been in the past 30 years—less likely to commit or be victims of crime, to become young parents, and less likely to smoke, drink or use drugs.

This is good news indeed, but as we all know, there is a difference between being safe

and feeling safe. We can understand this distinction because we all experience some anxiety when the threat level moves from yellow to orange or when we become aware of terrorist acts. As adults, we work to manage our reactions to these incidents. Likewise, our children struggle daily with feelings of safety that impact their quality of life.

The Girl Scouts of the United States of America is an esteemed organization, founded in the State of Georgia in 1912 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1950. Throughout its history, the Girl Scouts have worked to improve the lives of young women through traditional scouting and other educational programs. Now the Girl Scout Research Institute has produced a report titled "Feeling Safe: What Girls Say" based on original research. Through this publication, young women speak to us about what factors in their homes, schools and communities cause them to feel safe or unsafe and talk about their strategies for coping with such feelings.

For example, the report reveals that while physical safety is a key concern for urban and suburban girls, girls who live in rural communities are concerned about emotional safety, specifically about being teased. This finding supports the incorporation of anti-bullying and conflict resolution programs into our public schools. Feeling Safe also emphasizes that families and supportive friends can help girls strategize about ways to increase their feelings of safety and by so doing, become more empowered. This finding supports what we have already learned about the important role volunteer mentors can play in a young person's life.

I would like to commend the Girl Scouts of America for this research and the production of a user-friendly report that can be a guide for local, State and Federal policy makers. I recommend it to each of my colleagues and hereby pledge my continued support for this exemplary organization that has made all the difference in the lives of so many girls.

MILLER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON OVERTIME

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Miller Motion on Overtime which would instruct conferees to adopt provisions to prohibit overtime cuts, while allowing the administration to improve overtime rules. I am proud that in my home State of Illinois on March 31, the State House and Senate passed legislation that made Illinois the first State in the country to exempt the State from the changes to overtime pay rules. This legislation was signed into law by our former House colleague, Governor Blagojevich.

This legislation will preserve overtime compensation for 375,000 workers in Illinois. Unfortunately, not every State will be able to pass legislation to protect their workers. The Department of Labor's new regulations will cut the pay and lengthen the hours for workers making as little as \$23,660. This would mean a pay cut for middle-income Americans, when millions depend on overtime pay to make ends meet at a time when the median income has

declined with an increase in cost for education, child care, basic health care, health insurance, heating and cooling and gasoline.

In 2000, overtime pay accounted for about 25 percent of the income of employees who worked overtime. With the new regulation middle-income workers making between \$23,660 and \$100,000 will lose their overtime—this includes our police, fire fighters, day care workers, chefs, plumbers, electricians, nurses, and journalists. With over 60 percent of women with children under the age of two being part of the workforce, nursery and pre-school teachers are playing more important roles in our children's lives. As the work day extends for parents, so does the work day for nursery and pre-school teachers. The average pay for these teachers is \$8 an hour, with many working 10 hours a day. Yet they will no longer qualify for overtime.

An average police officer starting salary is around \$40,000. They protect us, keep us safe, walk the streets—put their lives on the line. After September 11th, our Nation became more grateful and devoted more respect to our officers and first responders. Yet we now want to take overtime away from them which could be used to benefit our economy and the lives of their families. There are already some police departments that do not pay overtime but offer comp time. Although, comp time is nice—with heightened security alerts and the need for more police on our streets, many do not get the opportunity to use this comp time when they would like. Instead, many police officers retire 20–30 years later receiving a check for their unused comp time.

Mr. Speaker, we can not turn our backs on our working Americans. Without overtime, many will have to struggle to maintain their current way of living. I am not just pro-labor, I am proud to be pro-family. And I know that these new regulations would be destructive to our working families. These regulations mean more work hours, less time with families, and even worse, less job creation.

The Illinois State Government understands. Our other body, the United States Senate understands—now the House needs to realize the importance of these new regulations. I ask my colleagues to support this motion.

HONORING BARBARA NOEL

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Noel, a Santa Ana High School teacher, who was recently honored with the Bravo Award.

The Bravo Award was established in 1983 by the Music Center Education Division to recognize teachers for creativity and innovation in Arts education. Three Bravo Awards are handed out each year: one to a school, one to an arts specialist, and one to a general classroom teacher.

Barbara is only the second dance teacher in 22 years to win this prestigious award and I am very excited for her. I wish to thank her for innovation and dedication in teaching the arts to out school children.